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would require a treatise. Even Smith's indebtedness to the physiocrats who undoubtedly had sociological notions of their own is by no means understood, or at least adequately stated. That he assumed the existence of a certain natural order of society whenever he analyzed economic conditions is no longer a matter of controversy.

It has been said that the minister who studies his Bible, and that only, does not understand it. However important technical economics may be in some of its phases, the science, as a whole, cannot be restricted merely to a question of technology. The economist may study market valuations and formulate their laws, but unless he takes a wider sweep he will be more likely to miss the point than to hit it. What kind of political economy abstracted from all ethical considerations could have been taught in this country before the Emancipation Proclamation? The inherent inconsistency of a slave population was made apparent even in Mill's great work. A controversy over the mere classification of economics and sociology is apt to be a barren affair, and in the meantime vigorous workers can gain victories under either flag. There is no patriotism in science. There may be economists who doubt the possibility of framing a precise definition of sociology because it looks to the welfare of society as a whole, and not from a definite angle. It is, however, quite needless to enter into a discussion of this question at the present time, but the sociologists can best answer it by giving a good account of themselves.

GARRETT DROPPERS

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*Wage-Earners' Budgets: A Study of Standards and Cost of Living in New York City.* By LOUISE BOLARD MOORE. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907. 8vo, pp x+280.

As Resident Fellow during the years 1903-5 at Greenwich House, a social settlement on the lower west side of New York City, the author has made a detailed neighborhood study of the living expenses, and social and economic condition of 200 wage-earners' families. The families selected are racially and industrially miscellaneous in character, with incomes from \$250 to \$2,556 a year, including families of petty shop-keepers, skilled and unskilled workmen, and of the very poor. The information is presented, so far as possible, in the form of statistical tables of occupation, nativity, income, and expenditure. Detailed analysis of family expenditures

is based upon the expense accounts of fifty families severally kept for periods ranging from one week to one year.

The conclusions of this investigation are in general conformity with the results of similar investigations, extensive and intensive, which have been made since the time of Engel. A mountain of statistical evidence has been gathered by official bureaus and private agencies establishing the law of expenditure, that as family income increases the portion of it expended for food decreases, while the portion expended for clothing and sundries increases. This conclusion is a species of statistical mouse conceived by a mountain of statistical evidence. The law is sufficiently obvious to be assumed without elaborate statistical verification, and it is comparatively insignificant.

While the present treatise deals with the apportionment of expenditure by working-men's families for food, clothing, fuel, shelter and sundries, as affected by size of income, size of family, racial character, and by other conditions, its scope is by no means restricted to further demonstration of these simple, well-established principles of apportionment. On the contrary the investigation embraces a wide variety of interests, and is generally informational regarding every-day living conditions. As a contribution to our concrete knowledge of social conditions the present work bears the only test to which it need be subjected—it is accurate, specific, and detailed.

Considerable work of this character has been done in different communities of recent years, and as further similar investigations seem to be generally contemplated, it is in order to ask what sort of conclusions may be legitimately based upon data so gathered. It would seem that the chief value of such evidence lies in the concrete presentation of the habits of living and of expenditure obtaining in the group investigated. Information of this sort is of great interest. Not infrequently, however, investigators present budgets of income and expenditure as indices of cost of living—as evidence that cost of living is high or low, that it is increasing or decreasing. An assumed increase in cost of living is today one chief motive underlying these investigations. In so far as this motive obtains the method is laborious and unsuited to the end. The expenditure of a social group is what it earns. Increased expenditure means increased earnings, and throws no light upon cost of living. Statistical evidence upon cost of living must deal with a fixed standard of liv-

ing, not with a budgetary account of family expenditure. The course of prices in the market is the true index of cost of living, and price statistics are not most accurately recorded in account books kept by the wives of working-men.

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*The Cause and Extent of the Recent Industrial Progress of Germany.* By EARL DEAN HOWARD. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1907. Pp. xiii+147.

The rise of Germany to industrial pre-eminence is rightly regarded as one of the most remarkable transformations of the past century. Dr. Howard's introductory chapters picture the Germany of barely two generations ago as still in the Middle Ages, industrially. Modern capitalism could find no foothold in a country distraught by religious and dynastic wars, dominated by a feudal class despising trade, and hampered by a fossilized mercantilism which repressed initiative and confined each petty state to its own narrow market. Startlingly in contrast is the description given of the Germany of today, alert, progressive, unified, essentially an *Industrie-* rather than an *Agrar-Staat*. Detailed statistical demonstration is given of the progress in each line of industry. Attention is drawn to the significant fact that the domestic market has expanded of late years much more rapidly than the foreign.

In discussing the causes of this progress Dr. Howard has filled in the commonly accepted outlines and added many interesting observations of his own on minor points. Political and fiscal unity cleared the way. British success pointed the goal. Increasing population provided abundance of capable workmen, disciplined by inherited habits of arduous toil and by personal experience of military training, and trained by a carefully planned system of industrial education. The prevailing acceptance of status, Dr. Howard observes, makes the problem of manning the various posts more simple than in fluid, democratic America. Effort and training are concentrated in foreordained channels, and the result is more thorough preparation within a more limited range. The important part science has played is amply illustrated. Dr. Howard concludes with a sympathetic presentation of Germany's expansion problem, and a summary of the points in which the United States might profitably follow German lead.

The volume, which is the first of the Hart, Schaffner, and Marx